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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/014,140	12/06/2001	Clyde F. Parrish	KSC-12235	6625

7590 03/18/2004

Randall M. Heald, Patent Counsel
NASA/Mail Code: CC-A
John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899

EXAMINER

LANGE, WAYNE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1754

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on 1-30-04 This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
2. Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
3. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
4. Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474..
6.

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

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1. Claims _____ are pending in the application.
2. Claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.
3. Claims _____ have been cancelled.
4. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-9 are allowed.
5. Claims 3, 5 and 10 are rejected.
6. Claims _____ are objected to.
7. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
8. This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
9. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
10. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
11. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____, has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
12. The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been approved; disapproved (see explanation).
13. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received not been received been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.
14. Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
15. Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over von Wedel et al. '587, for the reasons given in the last Office action. Applicant's argument, that von Wedel et al. '587 does not disclose the nature of the decomposition products or their reactivity regarding the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide, is not convincing. It would be expected that a plurality of oxidative free radicals would be part of the products resulting from the decomposition of the hydrogen peroxide in the process of von Wedel et al. '587, since applicant has not explained which decomposition products could be formed other than such oxidative free radicals. Applicant's specification provides evidence on page 4 that decomposition of a hydrogen peroxide solution at a temperature of about 140°C will result in the formation of oxidative free radicals, hydroxyl and

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hydroperoxyl. It would be expected from such disclosure in applicant's specification that the decomposition of the hydrogen peroxide in the process of von Wedel et al. '587 would also result in the formation of oxidative free radicals, especially since von Wedel et al. '587 discloses at column 17, lines 9-12 that the temperature of the gaseous mixture may be as high as 120°C. Such plurality of oxidative free radicals formed in the process of von Wedel et al. '587 would inherently further oxidize the nitric oxide to form nitrogen dioxide in such process. von Wedel et al. '587 specifically discloses at column 3, lines 7-12 that nitrogen dioxide is formed by the oxidation of nitric oxide in the process. There is no evidence on record showing that part of such oxidation would not be due to the formation of oxidative free radicals resulting from the decomposition of the hydrogen peroxide.

Claims 3, 5 and 10 are objected to as based on rejected parent claims, and would be allowed if written in independent form.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS

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ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wayne A. Langel whose telephone number is (571) 272-1353. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stanley Silverman, can be reached on (571) 272-1358. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Serial No. 10/014,140

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private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

WAL:cdc

March 17, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne A. Langel".

WAYNE A. LANGEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER